REMARKS

The above amendments and these remarks are responsive to the Office action dated November 16, 2004. Claims 1-18 are pending in the application. In the Office action, the Examiner allowed claims 1-14, objected to claims 16-18 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, and rejected claim 15. The Examiner indicated that claims 16-18 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Accordingly, claims 16-18 have been rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of original claim 15. Claim 15 has been cancelled to expedite issuance of the allowed claims. Applicants respectfully reserve all right to prosecute claim 15 in a subsequent continuation application.

Applicants believe that this application is now in condition for allowance, in view of the above amendments and remarks. Accordingly, applicants respectfully request that the Examiner issue a Notice of Allowability covering the pending claims. If the Examiner has any questions, or if a telephone interview would in any way advance prosecution of the application, please contact the undersigned attorney of record.

CERTIFICATE OF FACSIMILE

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being sent via facsimile to Art Unit 2854, Attention: Examiner Minh H. Chau, fax number (703) 872-9306 on December 6. 2004.

Respectfully submitted.

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